

REMARKS

The Office rejects claims 1-4 and 20 in the subject application. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 5, 8, 13-14, and 20-22 are amended. Claims 1-25 (9 independent claims; 25 total claims) remain pending in the application. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 15-19, and the indication that claims 5-14 and 21-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 5-14 and 21-25 have been rewritten in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Usui et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,183,677 ("Usui"). The Examiner contends that Usui discloses an "abrasive member in which a flexible adhesive layer having abrasive particles incorporated therein is deposited onto a film or any other layers (Col. 2, lines 51-54)." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Usui generally discloses "an abrasive sheet that is effective for use in an automobile repairing industry...." Col. 1, lines 10-15. Usui discloses an abrasive sheet that is configured to sand/polish a painted surface. See generally Col. 6, lines 1-29. The abrasive sheet disclosed comprises "a flexible resin layer which sandwiches abrasive particles and an adhesive layer for affixing these abrasive particles to said resin film between the flexible resin layer and said resin film." Col. 3, lines 13-20. Specifically, the invention of Usui must include the resin layer sandwich, and the benefits ascribed to the invention are said to flow specifically from the resin sandwich. See Col. 7, lines 11-34 ("...and especially, if the abrasive particles 13 and the adhesive layer 12 for affixing these particles 13 to the resin film 11 are sandwiched between the resin film 11 and the resin layer 14, ... there is no possibility that the abrasive particles can deeply cut into the surface to be repaired")

Furthermore, Usui briefly discloses a prior art automobile paint buffing abrasive sheet "in which a flexible adhesive layer having abrasive particles incorporated therein is deposited onto a

film or any other layers.” However, Usui teaches away from the use of such a device by teaching the resin sandwich described above. In any event, Usui only discloses abrasive sheets in this automobile paint buffing context.

In contrast, Applicants' amended claim 1 recites, in part, "a pad formed on said surface of said support structure, wherein said pad comprises an adhesive and a plurality of abrasive particles in contact with said adhesive, and wherein said pad is configured for cleaning and shaping a probe tip." (Emphasis added.) Applicants note that Usui does not disclose a pad, and in particular, Usui does not disclose a pad that is configured for cleaning and shaping a probe tip. Far from it, the abrasive sheet of Usui is intended to buff the surface of an automobile. As best understood, the resin sandwich abrasive sheet of Usui would not suitably function as a probe tip cleaning and shaping pad. (See, for example, specification at ¶26.) For the above reasons, Applicants submit that each and every element of independent claim 1 is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Usui. Accordingly, claim 1 (and claims 2-4 which depend from claim 1) is not anticipated by Usui and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Similarly, Applicants' amended claim 20 recites, in part, the steps of "applying an adhesive layer to a support structure, and applying a plurality of abrasive particles to said adhesive layer to form an abrasive particle layer, wherein said adhesive layer and said abrasive particle layer comprise a probe tip cleaning and shaping pad." (Emphasis added.) Again, Usui does not disclose a pad that is configured for cleaning and shaping a probe tip. Accordingly, amended claim 20 is not anticipated by Usui and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-25 properly set forth that which Applicants regard as their invention and are allowable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (602) 382-6367 at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject Application.

Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814. **This statement does NOT authorize charge of the issue fee.**

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Respectfully submitted,

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